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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,823	06/01/2005	Akira Kawahara	OMY-0041	7306

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EXAMINER

FOSTER, CHRISTINE E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1641

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/516,823

Applicant(s)

KAWAHARA ET AL.

Examiner

Christine Foster

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-9, drawn to detection kits and measurement plates.

Group II, claim(s) 10, drawn to a detection method using the detection kit of claims 1-6 or 7.

Group III, claim(s) 11-13 and 16-17, drawn to a detection method comprising reacting a sample, a primary antibody, and a secondary antibody.

Group IV, claim(s) 14-15 and 18-19, drawn to a detection method comprising competitively reacting an antibody-vitellogenin complex with a vitellogenin.

Group V, claim(s) 20, drawn to a polyclonal antibody.

Group VI, claim(s) 21-23, drawn to a manufacturing method of a frog vitellogenin antibody.

Group VII, claim(s) 24, drawn to an evaluation method comprising cultivating a hepatocyte due to an amphibian.

2. The inventions listed as Groups I-VII above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

According to PCT Rule 13.2, unity of invention exists only when the shared same or corresponding technical feature is a contribution over the prior art. The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept because they lack the same or

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corresponding special technical feature. The technical feature of Group I is a detection kit comprising a measurement plate(s), a primary antibody to frog vitellogenin, a standard frog vitellogenin, and a secondary antibody, where either the standard frog vitellogenin or the primary antibody is immobilized on the measurement plate.

However, Palmer et al. (Applicant's Information Disclosure statement of 6/1/05) teach an ELISA kit comprising a measurement plate (polystyrene microtiter plate), a primary antibody to frog vitronellin (rabbit anti-Xenopus vitellogenin serum), a standard frog vitellogenin (control frog sera containing vitellogenin) and a secondary antibody (goat anti-rabbit immunoglobulin conjugated to horseradish peroxidase) (p. 32, "Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA)"; p. 33, left column, the first full paragraph). Therefore, the technical feature of Group I does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not define a contribution over the prior art.

In addition, the technical feature of Group II is a detection method, while the technical feature of Group III includes the step of reacting a complex and a secondary antibody. Group IV includes the feature of competitively reacting a complex with vitellogenin, which is not a feature of the other Groups. Group V includes the feature of a polyclonal antibody isolated as an IgG, which is not a limitation of the other Groups. The technical feature of Group VI is a method of making a frog vitellogenin antibody, including the step of purifying IgG using an affinity column, which are not limitations of the other Groups. The technical feature of Group VII is an evaluation method that includes the steps of cultivating a hepatocyte and administering a sample to the hepatocyte, which are not limitations of the other Groups.

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Accordingly, Groups I-VII are not linked by the same or a corresponding special technical feature so as to form a single general inventive concept.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C.103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Foster whose telephone number is (571) 272-8786. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone

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are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached at (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Christine Foster, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1641



LONG V. LE
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04/10/06